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AUGUST 18.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Fourteen members present.

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AUGUST 25.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty members present.

*On Pectinatella magnifica.*—Prof. LEIDY exhibited a living specimen of the fresh-water ciliated polyp, formerly described by him under the name of *Pectinatella magnifica*. It was obtained by him this morning from the mill-pond at Kirkwood, N. J., on the Camden and Atlantic R. R. The specimen, about four inches square and three inches thick, is a fragment of a large colony, which enveloped the submerged trunk of a tree. The entire colony was estimated to be about six feet long, and from six to twelve inches in diameter, including that of the tree trunk, which was about four inches. Several branches of the tree were also invested with extensions of the colony from six inches to a foot in length. *Pectinatella* is by far the largest of all the known fresh-water ciliated polyps, and, indeed, is not surpassed by any of the marine forms known to us. It has not been determined whether the huge *Pectinatella* colonies start each from a single individual, or are the result of the confluence of a number of small colonies. On the approach of winter the colonies die and undergo decomposition, in which process the remarkable winter eggs or statoblasts are liberated. These are provided with anchor-like spines, by which, as in the case of the eggs of skates and sharks, they become attached to various fixed bodies.

*On a Parasitic Worm of the House-fly.*—Prof. LEIDY remarked that since it had become well known that many parasitic worms passed different stages of development within several different animals, he had from time to time sought for the sources from whence the more common thread worms obtained entrance into the human body, but thus far without success. The *Trichina spiralis*, discovered in man in 1833 by Mr. Hilton, and described and named by Prof. Owen in 1835, was first found in the hog by Prof. Leidy in 1846 (See Proc. A. N. S., iii. 108), but it was not until some years subsequently that it was determined that man and the hog acted reciprocally as hosts for the *Trichina* in its different stages of development.

In examining various common animals of our household, Prof. Leidy had found a thread worm, infesting the common house-fly. The worm is from a line to the tenth of an inch long, and lives in the proboscis of the fly. It was found in numbers from one to three in about one fly in five. The parasite was first discovered in the house-fly of India, by the English naturalist, Mr. H. J. Carter, who described it under the name of *Filaria Muscæ*, and suggested the opinion that it might be the source of the Guinea worm, *Filaria Medinensis* in man. Mr. Carter states that he found from two to twenty of the worms in one fly of three. Dr. Diesing referred the parasite to a new genus with the name of *Habronema Muscæ*. The singular position in which the worm lives suggests the many unsuspected places we have to search to find the parents or offspring of our own parasites.

*Notice of some Fresh Water Infusoria.*—Prof. LEIDY remarked that a species of *Limnias*, belonging to the order of wheel animalcules, or Rotatoria, was exceedingly abundant in our rivers. It lives in a tube, of its own construction, attached to aquatic plants and stones. He had not been able to determine whether it was a different species from the *L. ceratophylli* of Europe. The latter is described as solitary, but the common *Limnias* of our rivers is remarkable for the dense bunches that it forms. In many localities of the Schuylkill almost every stone exhibits multitudes of such bunches, pendent from the sides and under part. The bunches are conical, and usually one tube serves as a pedicle, while the others hang from it and often curve outwardly. From two or three to as many as fifty tubes may be counted in a bunch. This fasciculated character may distinguish the animalcule as a variety, which might be named *L. socialis*.

The bunches of *Limnias* form a support for a multitude of other animalcules. Among the latter, *Cothurnia pusilla* is quite common. Prof. Leidy had also observed upon the bunches on several occasions the curious branching infusorium described by Ehrenberg, and also described and figured by Claparede under the name of *Dendrosoma radians*. This measures a half a line or more in length, and terminates in branchlets, each with a rounded end, from which project a multitude of delicate rays, extending as much as the one-twelfth of a line in length.

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SEPTEMBER 1.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Fifteen members present.

Dr. NOLAN, having announced the death of Dr. JOHN HAMILTON SLACK, made the following remarks:—